

April 28, 1954

Dr. Walter Carter  
Pineapple Res. Institute of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 3166  
Honolulu 2,  
HAWAII, T.H.

Dear Dr. Carter:

Thank you for your letter of April 12 and for the reprints which have just been received. I have been extremely interested in your work on the mealy bug wilt of pineapple since I ran into it in the course of preparing a review on hereditary symbiosis a couple of years ago. As I ordinarily have little contact with the phytopathological literature I would be indebted to you for continuing to keep me apprised of your work in this field. As you may note from the enclosed book review, and from the review previously mentioned, I am heartily sympathetic with your conclusions on the significance of symbiosis. My approach to this question is however from the viewpoint of microbial genetics rather than cytogenetics. I hope that it will sometime be practical to conduct with your material the kind of cross-infection experiments which seem to me most vital.

I was especially intrigued by your experiment on the maternal inheritance of symbionts on the one hand, and in Eito's work on the determination of sexual function on the other. Has anything further been done on these topics?

According to my records, I made a special point of sending you a reprint of the review "Cell genetics and hereditary symbiosis" which appeared in Physiological Reviews in 1952. In view of the title and rather formidable nomenclature, it is possible that you may have overlooked the particular reference to work within your own interest. On the other hand, perhaps this reprint never reached you, a point that I would be interested to determine. If the paper was lost in the mails, I will be happy to dip into a very limited residual supply to furnish a replacement.

You mentioned your acquaintanceship with the Huskins. Their loss was of course keenly felt by everyone at the University, both from a personal and a professional standpoint.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,  
Associate Professor of Genetics

JL:mg

Encl. 43, postcard

P.S. Did I say leafhopper? My slip.